



MI-CW3108

Michigan Crop Weather

August 4, 2008

Hot, Dry Conditions

Fruit

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 3, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.07 inches in the west central and southwestern Lower Peninsula to 0.81 inches in the central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree above normal in the western Upper Peninsula and the northeastern and east central Lower Peninsula to 3 degrees above normal in the central and southeastern Lower Peninsula. Following a spring with elevated moisture levels, much of the State experienced a dry week. Crops in many areas of the State were reported to be in need of rain. A farmer in the west central reported, "As we enter our fourth week without meaningful rainfall, corn and some other crops are showing signs of heat and moisture stress especially on the lighter soils." Although some of the soils were dry, excess moisture did exist in some locations. "Thunderstorms continue to rumble through our area creating pockets of saturated soil next to areas with adequate moisture," a reporter in the Thumb region stated.

Field Crops

Corn was looking good in most locations, but there were some reports that rain was needed. For the crop to continue in good condition, many fields will need to receive moisture. **Soybeans** continued to bloom, and a number of fields were setting pods. Some locations were reported to be in need of rain. Harvest of **winter wheat** was all but completed. Dry conditions were good for harvest of **alfalfa** but poor for regrowth. Humidity made harvest difficult in some areas. Moisture levels and rains have damaged some **dry bean** fields, but the crop continues to progress. The **sugarbeet** crop continued to do well. Cercospora infestation was very light. **Oat** harvest was underway. The majority of the **barley** crop was in fair to good condition.

Apples grew to 3 inches in the southwest; fire blight infections were moving and oozing from cankers was reported. In the southeast, harvest of early summer apple varieties began; deer browsing damage was more prevalent than in previous years. **Apricot** harvest was winding down in the southwest; quality was generally good with little brown rot. **Blackberry** harvest continued. **Cranberries** were at small green fruit. **Blueberry** harvest continued in the southwest, where quality and volume were reportedly excellent. In the southeast, berry size was an issue on farms with dry soils. **Peaches** were 2.5 inches in diameter; harvest of early variety peaches continued across the State. **Pears** were 2 inches in the southwest. In the southeast, pears were 1.75 inches; finish problems were found, resulting from freezing temperatures during the spring. **Plums** were 1.25 inches in the southeast; harvest of Early Magic and Shiro varieties began in the southwest. **Strawberries** rebounded well from renovation where soil moisture was adequate in the southeast; newly planted strawberries continued to runner well. In the southeast, insect pest activity was found in many **sweet cherry** blocks. **Tart cherry** harvest was completed in the southeast, neared completion in the west central, and continued in the northwest. **Raspberry** harvest neared completion in the southeast and continued in the northwest and southwest. Some early **grape** varieties began to change color in the southwest; phomopsis lesions in the fruit clusters were found.

Vegetables

Dry conditions persisted for much of the State while a few areas received rain from thunderstorms. In **asparagus**, heavy dews and warm weather kept disease pressure high despite the lack of rain in the west central. **Cabbage** harvest continued and appeared to be progressing well. The **carrot** crop had increased leaf blight pressure and leafhopper activity. Irrigation was being used where it was available. **Celery** harvest for fresh and processing markets continued. Reports ranged from good to fair depending on the area. Viruses were appearing in **zucchini** and **yellow squash** although they did not seem severe or widespread. The **muskmelon** crop appeared to be plentiful this year. **Pumpkins** and **hard squash** were setting fruit and fields looked excellent. **Onions** were sizing out considerably. Bacterial and fungal diseases were reported in a number of fields. **Vine crops** were doing well, but some powdery mildew, downy mildew, and phytophthora was present. **Tomatoes** and **peppers** were progressing well. **Eggplant** harvest began. **Potatoes** started to mature. **Snap bean** fields were growing well with some fields being irrigated. **Sweet corn** harvest was in full swing with an excellent crop. Thrips were present in damaging numbers in **leek** fields. Newly planted **radish** fields were growing well. Fruit set began in fields of **butternut squash** for processing.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/03/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	15	37	44	4
Subsoil	9	36	52	3

Crop condition for week ending 08/03/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	3	6	24	50	17
Barley	1	3	44	50	2
Corn	3	6	25	47	19
Dry beans	7	8	24	47	14
Oats	1	4	23	54	18
Pasture	3	14	41	36	6
Soybeans	3	7	29	45	16

Crop progress for week ending 08/03/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn, height	76	70	70	71
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	74	63	83	75
All hay, third cutting	19	6	19	13
Blueberries, harvested	47	36	54	48
Corn, silked	86	68	85	79
Corn, dough	14	2	10	8
Dry beans, blooming	63	46	65	65
Dry beans, setting pods	11	5	26	30
Oats, turning yellow	85	78	89	92
Oats, harvested	21	6	38	34
Peaches, harvested	32	15	27	20
Potatoes, harvested	9	1	2	NA
Soybeans, blooming	84	79	85	80
Soybeans, setting pods	50	36	59	47
Tart cherries, harvested	91	60	78	86
Winter wheat, harvested	97	85	100	95

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/03/08 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	46		1,156	1,527		0.62	0.95	2.90	11.78		
Marquette	83	50		1,080	1,456		0.61	0.87	3.00	13.80		
Stephenson	85	50		1,405	1,583		1.15	1.17	4.32	14.18		
Western UP	85	44	1	1,184	1,507	1,227	0.69	1.04	2.89	12.18	13.13	3.69
Cornell	85	52		1,255	1,549		0.64	1.02	2.99	12.53		
Sault St Marie	79	52		1,087	1,387		0.19	1.23	3.09	12.12		
Eastern UP	85	48	2	1,099	1,408	1,046	0.51	1.01	2.71	12.76	12.29	3.53
Beulah	83	55		1,503	1,654		1.26	1.69	2.50	16.86		
Lake City	86	51		1,448	1,585		0.62	0.82	1.62	17.65		
Old Mission	84	53		1,427	1,566		0.00	0.23	1.07	10.14		
Pellston	84	48		1,371	1,521		0.26	1.33	2.79	13.06		
Northwest	86	48	2	1,392	1,546	1,392	0.39	0.77	1.76	13.56	11.58	3.11
Alpena	84	50		1,431	1,562		0.03	0.08	4.30	13.06		
Houghton Lake	82	48		1,485	1,587		0.03	0.49	1.82	14.76		
Rogers City	82	52		1,409	1,609		0.09	0.46	2.83	14.19		
Northeast	84	48	1	1,446	1,572	1,345	0.09	0.47	3.06	13.99	11.69	3.12
Fremont	87	55		1,604	1,758		0.02	0.02	1.08	11.94		
Hart	86	54		1,536	1,669		0.00	0.00	2.09	14.03		
Muskegon	85	53		1,579	1,783		0.05	0.06	1.92	11.74		
West Central	87	51	2	1,550	1,706	1,526	0.07	0.09	2.60	14.67	11.60	3.60
Alma	88	54		1,707	1,849		0.85	0.98	1.64	9.25		
Big Rapids	87	53		1,637	1,652		0.65	1.02	1.89	11.70		
Central	88	53	3	1,651	1,746	1,595	0.81	1.18	2.10	10.17	12.59	3.64
Bad Axe	86	58		1,647	1,693		2.06	2.94	5.66	15.35		
Pigeon	86	54		1,584	1,635		0.24	0.64	2.38	9.79		
Saginaw	84	57		1,746	1,849		0.78	1.43	2.71	12.34		
Standish	85	55		1,544	1,638		0.50	2.00	3.78	12.55		
East Central	87	54	1	1,605	1,706	1,580	0.78	1.57	3.33	12.03	11.52	2.93
Fennville	87	56		1,612	1,760		0.00	0.11	2.09	16.58		
Grand Rapids	87	60		1,851	1,995		0.00	0.01	1.22	15.44		
Holland	86	58		1,835	1,951		0.00	0.00	2.85	17.26		
South Bend, IN	90	58		1,923	2,091		0.00	0.06	2.14	10.92		
Watervliet	87	57		1,754	1,914		0.07	0.29	2.69	13.99		
Southwest	90	51	2	1,773	1,906	1,719	0.07	0.26	2.62	15.54	13.47	3.18
Belding	88	53		1,643	1,763		0.19	0.19	0.80	9.80		
Coldwater	90	53		1,772	1,802		0.00	0.00	1.29	11.22		
Lansing	87	57		1,801	1,867		0.04	0.09	1.38	11.42		
South Central	90	53	2	1,745	1,844	1,703	0.17	0.38	2.02	12.08	13.28	3.36
Detroit	89	60		1,973	2,019		0.07	0.29	1.73	10.38		
Flint	88	54		1,848	1,835		0.34	0.89	2.33	10.92		
Romeo	88	58		1,733	1,781		0.86	0.86	3.42	11.47		
Tipton	89	59		1,792	1,825		0.00	0.02	2.26	15.87		
Toledo, OH	90	59		1,952	1,990		0.00	0.00	1.67	14.63		
Southeast	93	51	3	1,802	1,871	1,682	0.39	0.73	2.52	13.46	12.80	3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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